# Translating the science



Experiences at the University of Washington

November 2004





# Making links (using SBRP research)

- Between students and SBRP scientists
- Between SBRP research and students

 Between environmental education and environmental health education



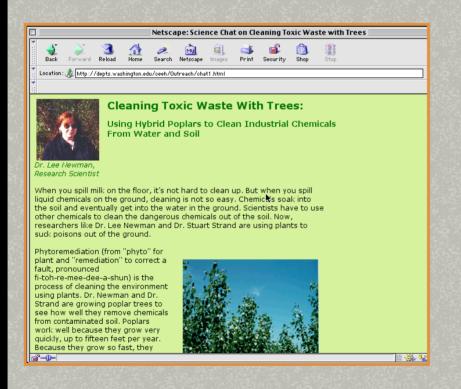
#### Online Chat Sessions

- Interactive, real-time chat sessions between:
  - 6th grade students at Harbour Pointe Middle School, Mukilteo, WA
  - SBRP scientists: Drs. Newman and Strand
- Connected hybrid poplar trees to a classroom unit on vascular plants.





#### Online Chat Sessions (cont'd)



- 60 students engaged in discussions relating to
  - waste management
  - Superfund issues
  - remediation of sites
  - how they became a researcher
  - what they do now



#### Fixing the Dirt with Plants exhibit

- Our theme at the annual Seattle International Children's Fair.
- Set up a scenario: where should the vegetable garden be placed?
  - Based on some data, one area had TCE and clean-up was necessary.
  - Described phytoremediation in general, focusing specifically on UW research.



## Fixing the Dirt with Plants (cont'd)

- Students also learned that it is important to check if the soil is healthy for plants.
  - Students tested soil samples for
    - Nitrogen
    - Phosphorus
    - Potassium
    - soil pH



 15 graduate students and staff supported the exhibit and reached over 500 visitors.



## Attracting environmental educators

- Used phytoremediation as a way to engage tradition environmental educators in environmental health education.
- Reached 150 educators during the annual Environmental Educators Association of Washington meeting.



#### Challenges...

 Research is often very specific and a little difficult to explain.

- · But it is worth it.
  - Activities are based on local research
  - Able to turn to the researchers for help
  - Can direct public questions to the scientist





#### **UW SBRP Outreach Core**



For more information, please contact:

Tom Burbacher: 206-685-7674

Chetana Acharya: 206-616-2643



